

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 07BOGOTA8405, URIBE ACCEPTS "ENCOUNTER ZONE" FOR HUMANITARIAN

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#07BOGOTA8405**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
07BOGOTA8405	2007-12-07 20:52	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0000
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #8405 3412052
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 072052Z DEC 07
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0430
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7930
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 9637
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ DEC 9102
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 5691
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 0955
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1157
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6383
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4201
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 008405

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/07/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [VZ](#) [FR](#) [CO](#)
SUBJECT: URIBE ACCEPTS "ENCOUNTER ZONE" FOR HUMANITARIAN
EXCHANGE - AND OFFERS USD 100 MILLION FOR FARC MEMBERS THAT
LIBERATE HOSTAGES

REF: BOGOTA 8332

Classified By: CDA Brian A. Nichols
Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

Uribe Offers "Encounter Zone"

¶1. (U) President Alvaro Uribe announced on December 7, that the GOC would accept a Catholic Church proposal to create a small "zona de encuentro" (encounterzone) to seek a "humanitarian exchange" of Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)-held hostages for FARC prisoners in Colombian jails. The GOC previously accepted a similar European proposal in December, 2005, which the FARC later rejected. Uribe said the zone would need to be approximately 150 square kilometers in size, in a sparsely populated rural area and have no existing police or military installations. Unarmed international observers would preside in order to "define" the terms of the exchange. FARC fighters would not be allowed into the area. Uribe authorized Peace Commissioner Luis Carlos Restrepo, working with the Church, to seek contact with the FARC to find a location for the zone.

¶2. (C) Presidential advisor Jose Obdulio Gaviria told us the GOC would appreciate U.S. support for the encounter zone proposal, at least in conversations in Bogota or with third countries. He added that the GOC would not accept a return of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez or Senator Piedad Cordoba to the exchange process, noting that pressure on the GOC to do so had diminished.

Low GOC Expectations for French

¶3. (C) Gaviria also told us the GOC would continue talking with the French on the hostage issue, but remained worried that the French will pressure the GOC rather than the FARC (reftel). French DCM in Bogota Alain Fort separately confirmed that Uribe never offered French President Nicolas Sarkozy a mediator role, and details of possible French involvement remained unclear. Fort said Peace Commissioner Restrepo made his December 4 announcement that he would travel to Paris for consultations with the GOF without consulting the GOF. Hence, the GOF deferred the visit for "scheduling reasons." Fort also said that Sarkozy did not coordinate his letters to FARC leader Manuel Marulanda with the GOC; the GOF did give the GOC copies before releasing them publicly.

USD 100 Million for Hostages

¶4. (U) President Uribe also announced on December 7, that the Ministry of Defense had identified USD 100 million to "stimulate the demobilization" of FARC members who liberate hostages. FARC members willing to turn over their hostages and reintegrate into society would receive payment from the fund depending on case specifics. Uribe previously announced that FARC members willing to demobilize and turn over hostages would receive benefits under the Justice and Peace Law.

Nichols

=====CABLE ENDS=====